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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

AGDA-A (M) (27 Jan 71) FOR OT UT 703238

2 February 1971

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 54th Signal Battalion, Period Ending 31 July 1970 (U)

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1. The attached report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with para 4b, AR 525-15.
2. The information contained in this report is provided to insure that lessons learned during current operations are used to the benefit of future operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.
3. Information of actions initiated as a result of your evaluation should be forwarded to the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, ATTN: FOR OT UT within 90 days of receipt of this letter.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham
KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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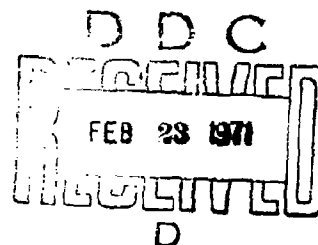
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 54th Signal Battalion (Corps)
APO 96350

AVFA-SB-CO

15 August 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 54th Signal Battalion (Corps),
Period Ending 31 July, RCS-CSFOR-65 (R2)

THRU: Commanding General
I FFORCEV
ATTN: AVFA-GC-OT
APO 96350

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army

1. (C) Significant Organization Activities

a. General:

During the reporting period the 54th Signal Battalion (Corps) and its attached units continued to support combat operations within the II Military Region, formerly the II Corps Tactical Zone, by providing command control communications between Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam and units under its operational control. These communications included communications center services, high frequency radio teletype, single side-band voice radio, very high frequency multichannel radio, tropospheric scatter multichannel radio, FM radio wire integration, photographic services, air and ground messenger service, a Military Affiliate Radio Station (MARS), and an AM/FM broadcast station.

b. Intelligence: None.

c. Operations and Training Activities:

(1) Plans:

(a) With the closeout of the V-06A, V-06B and V-08 multichannel systems at Thien Giao and the relocation of V-07 to Phan Thiet, the battalion will inactivate Detachment 23 at Thien Giao in early August.

(b) Proposed utilization of AN/TRC-97B tropospheric scatter multichannel communications equipment made available last quarter by the closeout

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of the T-42 system between Dragon Mountain and Hon Tre Island has been cancelled. This equipment was to be used to install a system between Headquarters, I FFORCEV and Headquarters, Task Force South, Phan Thiet, but the unpredictable future of Task Force South prompted the cancellation of the planned project.

(c) In connection with the Vietnamization Program, plans are currently being developed and analyzed by this organization to assist ARVN Signal Counterparts with improvements of their signal capabilities. Areas of particular emphasis in this "Buddies Together" program are electronic maintenance, operations and intelligence, radio wire integration, switchboard operations, and generator maintenance. Proposed plans would provide on the job training and evaluation of ARVN personnel by US counterparts. Training would be conducted at battalion facilities for small groups of selected individuals.

(2) Operations: Communications Detachments are shown in Inclosure #1.

(a) Communications in the Nha Trang Area:

1 The 54th Signal Battalion (Corps) with its base of operations in Nha Trang provides the varied communications support listed below to the following major units:

- a Headquarters, First Field Force Vietnam
- b First Field Force Artillery
- c 17th Aviation Group (Combat)
- d Civil Operations and Rural Development Support
- e Khanh Hoa Province Senior Advisor
- f Units under the operational control and supporting First Field Force Vietnam

2 High frequency radio teletype and single sideband voice communications terminate in the battalion's High Frequency Park located across from the Grand Hotel. This communications facility is the hub of the three high frequency radio nets that link Nha Trang to eight (8) different locations: Phan Thiet, Ninh Hoa, Qui Nhon, LZ English, Pleiku, Phu Cat, Pho Trach, and Song Mao.

3 Very High Frequency multichannel communications terminate at the Hotel site located on the Grand Hotel compound. One system is relayed

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from Hon Tre Island in the Bay of Nha Trang, 85 miles to Ban Me Thuot. Two systems interface with a AN/TRC-97B tropospheric scatter system providing access to the northern portion of the II Military Region thru Vung Chua Mountain.

4 These systems carry the command and control circuits which terminate in the Typhoon common user switchboard and TOC switchboard located in the Grand Hotel compound.

5 The Military Affiliate Radio Station (MARS) supports military personnel in the Nha Trang area. It is located next to the former location of the Camp John F. McDermott Post Exchange. In this station is also located the Net Control Station for HQ I FFORCEV and the battalion's Radio Wire Integration Net.

6 The AM/FM broadcast station serves the Nha Trang area and is located in the King Duy Tan Hotel. It broadcasts taped music and gives the correct time daily from 0500-2400 hours.

7 The First Field Force Vietnam Communications Center facilities are operated and maintained by the battalion's command operations company. This communications center handles an average of over 600 messages per day, more than half of which are of immediate or flash precedence.

8 The Tactical Operations Center Communications Center, located on the third floor of the Grand Hotel, maintains five (5) dedicated secure teletype circuits for the exclusive use of the I FFORCEV G-3 Tactical Operations Center.

9 The I FFORCEV Courier Section is operated by the 54th Signal Battalion (Corps). It provides ground and air message service in support of Headquarters, First Field Force Vietnam.

10 The Quick Comm Communications System, by which the US Advisors at 12 provinces and 54 districts making up the II Military Region can pass immediate traffic reports to Headquarters, I FFORCEV Tactical Operations Center (TOC) via telephone circuits and radio wire integration facilities, is maintained by the battalion with three technical assistance teams which provide scheduled and demand maintenance. Each team is composed of a highly skilled radio operator, a radio repairman and a wireman.

11 The Battalion Pictorial Section, augmented by the 209th Signal Detachment (Photographic), is located in the Grand Hotel Complex; supporting HQ, IFFORCEV, Civil Operations and Rural Development Support and other units in the Nha Trang area with Department of the Army Record Photography, Information Office photographic requirements and other official US Army Photography.

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(b) Communications Support at Phan Thiet: The battalion supports Task Force South whose headquarters is in Phan Thiet. Included in this support are high frequency secure radio teletype, non-secure single side-band voice radio, common user secure teletype and dedicated secure teletype between Headquarters, First Field Force Vietnam, its Tactical Operations Center and Task Force South at Phan Thiet. The battalion's field operations company (Company B) maintains two very high frequency multichannel radio systems which link Phan Thiet and Song Mao with Task Force South Headquarters, its operationally controlled units and the other units as listed below. In addition to the above listed communications, the battalion's command operations company (Company A) provides communications center service at Phan Thiet. The systems are as depicted in inclosure #2. The supported units are:

- 1 Headquarters, Task Force South (Phan Thiet)
- 2 Binh Thuan Province Adviser (MACV Advisory Team #37 at Phan Thiet)

(c) Communications Support at Song Mao: The battalion supports units in Song Mao that are under the operational control of Task Force South with very high frequency multichannel communications between Song Mao and Phan Thiet. Additionally, a communications center in Song Mao is operated by the battalion. The units supported are:

- 1 Song Mao District Senior Adviser (MACV Advisory Team #37)
- 2 MACV Advisory Team #33 to the 44th Regiment, 23d Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam
- 3 2d Squadron of the 1st Armored Cavalry (US)
- 4 5th Battalion of the 27th Artillery (US)

(d) Communications Support at Ban Me Thuot: The battalion supports Detachment B-50, 5th Special Forces Group (Command Control South) at Ban Me Thuot East. The V-13 multichannel system provides a secure common user teletype circuit to the First Field Force Vietnam communications center.

(e) Communications Support at Camp Swampy: The battalion supports the 19th Engineers at Camp Swampy with multichannel communications relayed through Buon Ea Yong to Ban Me Thuot. Telephone communications to the Ban Me Thuot and Typhoon (Nha Trang) Switchboard and direct voice communications with Headquarters, 19th Engineer Battalion at Nha Trang are provided.

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(f) Communications Support at Pleiku: The battalion provides multi-channel communications support to the Deputy Senior Advisor to the II Military Region, the 52nd Artillery Group and the 20th Engineer Group located in Pleiku. DSA II Region receives secure high frequency radio teletype, non-secure single sideband voice radio, and a dedicated secure teletype circuit to the First Field Force Tactical Operations Center (TOC). Multichannel communications systems are terminated at Artillery Hill from Tan Canh and Hon Cong Mountain.

(g) Communications Support at Tan Canh: The 167th Signal Company (Radio Relay) provides very high frequency multichannel communications in support of the 1st Battalion, 92nd Artillery at Tan Canh.

(h) Communications Support at An Khe: The 167th Signal Company (Radio Relay), attached to the 54th Signal Battalion (Corps), supports the 4th Infantry Division with multichannel radio communications between Pleiku (Artillery Hill) and An Khe (Hon Cong Mountain) and between these locations and Headquarters, First Field Vietnam at Nha Trang. Additional communications systems link An Khe with LZ English and Vung Chua Mountain.

(i) Communications Support at LZ English: The battalion provides the 173rd Airborne Brigade at LZ English with communications center operations, secure high frequency radio teletype, single sideband voice and four very high frequency multichannel communications systems. These link Headquarters, 173rd Airborne Brigade with Headquarters, I FFORCEV and link the brigade with its subordinate units located at LZ Uplift and LZ North English.

(j) Communications Support at LZ North English: The battalion operates very high frequency multichannel communications at North English in support of the 173rd Airborne Brigade. By using V-23 system, elements of this combat infantry unit can communicate with its headquarters at LZ English.

(k) Communications Support at LZ Uplift: The V-24 very high frequency system, operated by the battalion, links elements of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, based at LZ Uplift, with Brigade Headquarters at LZ English.

(l) Communications Support at Qui Nhon: The battalion provides secure high frequency radio teletype and non-secure single sideband radio voice communications to the US Liaison Officer to the Capital Republic of Korea Division at Qui Nhon. Vung Chua Mountain, located near Qui Nhon, is a major communications nodal point for multichannel communications systems from Hon Tre Island and Hon Cong Mountain.

(m) Communications Support at Ninh Hoa: The battalion provides secure high frequency radio teletype and non-secure single sideband radio

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voice communications to the US Liaison Officer to the 9th Republic of Korea Division at Minh Hoa.

(n) Communications Support at Dalat and Bao Loc: The battalion provides and operates single sideband voice radio at Dalat and Bao Loc for Task Force South Security Net. The net control is operated by the battalion at Phan Thiet.

(o) Communications Support at Phu Cat: The battalion provides high frequency secure radio teletype and single sideband voice support to the Capital Republic of Korea Division's forward command post at Phu Cat.

(p) Continuing Battalion Projects: The battalion continues toward professional development through emphasis in the following areas:

- 1 Improvement of site facilities, listed by location in inclosure #1.
- 2 Improvement of communications center operations now that the Mode I Digital Subscriber Terminal Equipment has been reoriented into the Phu Lam Automatic Switching Center system.
- 3 Enhancing the reliability of communications to units under the operational control of I Field Force Vietnam.
- 4 Quality control of multichannel communications systems.
- 5 Improvement of switchboard operation through cross training of personnel.
- 6 Continued improvement of the "Quick Comm" system.

(q) New Projects and Significant Changes

1 Lieutenant Colonel Joseph W. Taylor assumed command of the 54th Signal Battalion (Corps) from Lieutenant Colonel Robert E. Visscher on 4 May 1970.

2 The Battalion's support of the First Field Force Vietnam Forward Mobile Staff terminated on 2 May 1970 when the Forward Mobile Staff began redeploying to Nha Trang. This support was rendered during the North Vietnamese Army force's siege of Dak Seang. This and other significant enemy activity in Kontum Province necessitated installation of rapid response communications by the battalion. Over fifty (50) men from the battalion provided switchboard, secure high frequency radio teletype, multichannel very high frequency radio, ground mounted secure FM radio, secure teletype and daily air courier service between Tan Canh, Kontum and Pleiku during this tactical operation that lasted from 4 April to 2 May 1970.

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2 Immediately after the closeout of the Forward Mobile Staff, the battalion was directed to render support to the combined US-ARVN Cambodian Operations. These commitments which changed with the tactical situation lasted from 8 May to 27 June 1970. The following is a breakdown of the commitment:

a One AN/GRC-122 secure radio teletype was deployed to Plei Djereng to support the 4th Division.

b One AN/GRC-142 secure radio teletype was deployed to Plei Djereng.

c One AN/MRC-73 from the 167th Signal Company (RR) was sent to Plei Djereng.

d One AN/GRC-122 deployed to Duc Co to support the MACV advisors to the 22nd ARVN Division.

e One AN/GRC-122 deployed to Pleiku to support MACV Team 21, advisors to 22nd ARVN Division.

f When the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division returned to its An Khe base camp around 7 May, the AN/GRC-142 (see item 3b) was sent to LZ Meredith. Here it supported the 2nd Squadron, 1st Armored Cavalry Regiment, which was maintaining road security in the area. This unit was under the operational control of the 4th Division.

g On 22 May the AN/GRC-122 no longer being utilized by the 4th Division was sent to Duc Lap in support of the MACV Advisors to the 23rd ARVN Division which was operating in Cambodia at that time.

h On the same day the AN/GRC-122 previously committed at Pleiku was sent to Ban Me Thuot to support the operation mentioned in part g above.

i Additionally, B Company deployed two AN/MRC-112 four channel Very High Frequency rigs; one to Ban Me Thuot and one to Duc Lap.

j On 20 June the AN/MRC-112 and AN/GRC-122 at Duc Lap were redeployed to Ban Don, the new forward base camp of the MACV advisors.

k On 10 May the battalion sent the Officer in Charge of the pictorial section and one combat photographer to Cambodia with the 4th Division. The mission lasted one week.

l On 22 May the battalion deactivated the V-25 system. This system terminated at Tam Quan, providing communications between elements of 173rd Airborne Brigade located there and at LZ North English. The system was determined unnecessary by I FFOCEV Signal Office.

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5 One AN/VSC-2 deployed from Nha Trang to Ban Me Thuot on 9 June. This equipment supported the 2/1 Cavalry. On 15 June when this site encountered equipment failures, the AN/GRC-122 equipment from Detachment 29, Duc Lap, which "stood down" on 12 June, was utilized for the commitment. On 30 June the equipment finished Ban Me Thuot operations and relocated with the 2/1 Cavalry at Song Mao.

6 On 16 June 1970 the 4th Platoon 167th Signal Company (RR) which had been based in Pleiku moved to the company area in An Khe. The reason for this was the closeout of Engineer Hill. The V-73 and V-74 systems were transferred to Artillery Hill, and four men from the platoon remained to augment this detachment.

7 On 22 June an AN/GRC-122 deployed from Pleiku to Duc Co in support of the 22nd ARVN Division advisors. This detachment redeployed to Phu Cat 16 July to support the Capitol Republic of Korea Division.

8 During the second week of June, circuit XN3Z was deactivated at the I FFORCEV Communications Center. This was done after the successful sixty (60) day trial period of the MODE I Autodin Digital Subscriber Terminal Equipment was completed. The deactivated circuit allowed the 459th Signal Battalion maintenance men to remove the older MODE V terminal which MODE I replaced. One month later the Communications Center MODE I Circuit was reterminated from the Nha Trang Automatic Switching Center to the Phu Lam Automatic Switching Center. At the same time the baud rate was increased from 150 to 300. Since the above two changes, the overall efficiency of the Communications Center has improved. There has been a smoother flow of traffic, and the perplexing problem of high reject rates has disappeared.

9 On 9-10 July the I FFORCEV Inspector General conducted the semi-annual inspection of the battalion. On the basis of a satisfactory or unsatisfactory, the battalion received a satisfactory rating. Two weeks later the 167th Signal Company (RR) was inspected and was rated satisfactory, also.

10 On 30 July 1970 the battalion committed one AN/GRC-122 secure radio teletype rig to Tuy Phuoc in Binh Dinh Province. This support was rendered to the forward command post of the 3/506th Infantry Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile).

11 During the quarter the four companies centralized all M-13 decontamination kits and atropine injectors in the unit supply rooms. This was in compliance with the I FFORCEV Chemical Officer's direction and served to eliminate the continuous problem of lost or damaged items that were previously kept in the M-17A1 CBR Mask Carrier and were not utilized.

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(r) Training:

1 The battalion continued the practice of holding replacement training twice weekly to enable replacement personnel assigned to the 167th Signal Company (RR) to depart to An Khe as rapidly as possible.

2 Psywar: None.

3 Chemical: None.

4 Safety: None.

5 Non-battalion formal training conducted during the past quarter:

<u>Course</u>	<u>Length (Hrs)</u>	<u>Attended</u>	<u>Total Hours</u>
Projectionist (MP)	4	6	24
AN/TRC-97B Operator	80	3	240
PCM (MEDCAP) Maintenance	168	3	504
AN/TRC-24 Operator	112	6	672
PCM (MEDCAP) Operator	72	6	432
Key System Installation Maintenance	96	3	288
AN/GRC-106 Maintenance	216	1	216

6 For the first quarter of the 1971 fiscal year the battalion received the following school allocations from 1st Signal Brigade:

- 6 - AN/TRC-97B Operator Course
- 3 - AN/TRC-24 Operator Course
- 1 - AN/TRC-24 Maintenance Course
- 13 - PCM (MEDCAP) Operator
- 1 - AN/GRC-106 Maintenance Course
- 1 - Key System Installation and Maintenance Course

d. Logistics:

(1) The S-4 section is identifying battalion excess equipment, to include not only items on hand and not authorized, but also those items that are authorized but not essential for mission needs. A listing will be made of the above mentioned items to include those authorized items for which a request to "Stand Short" will be made to higher headquarters.

(2) The future coordination of this program will be implemented by the battalion S-3 which will rapidly expedite the S-4's recommendations.

(3) During the first half of July 1970, the battalion turned in excess items with a total dollar value of \$2486.00 and also cancelled

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requisitions for items in excess of need for a total dollar value of \$1,206,647.13. Because this program was recently initiated, the future figures will reflect lower cutbacks in requisitions and higher amounts of equipment turned in.

(4) Transportation: Operational commitments required extensive use of air transportation during the quarter. The total amounts of cargo transported, in pounds, by the Air Force to and from detachments operated by this unit are as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
Phan Thiet	4595
Qui Nhon	33731
An Khe	3320
Kontum	5800
LZ English	4725
Bao Loc	12907
Pleiku	40453
Ban Me Thuot	26484
Song Mao	7850
TOTAL	139865

(5) The Battalion Motor Maintenance Section continued maintenance operations in 5 vital areas.

(a) The Battalion Maintenance Shop, formed in May 1970, performed a total of 81 semi-annual services during the quarter.

(b) The Battalion Power Shop evacuated twenty-eight (28) generators to Direct Support Maintenance while deprocessing five (5) 45KW generators during the quarter.

(c) The Battalion Technical Inspection Team was responsible for insuring that 1st and 2nd echelon maintenance was being performed on all battalion vehicles prior to their dispatch. During the quarter an average of fifty-five (55) battalion vehicles were inspected daily.

(d) The Consolidated Battalion Dispatch Section controls vehicle dispatch on a daily basis. Three dispatchers are attached to the Battalion Maintenance Section and responsible for enforcing dispatch procedures.

(e) The Battalion Tire Facility processed approximately 380 tires for repair and issue to the respective companies.

e. Civil Affairs: Elements of the 54th Signal Battalion (Corps)

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supported three orphanages in the Nha Trang area with monetary donations, clothing, foodstuffs, manpower support and miscellaneous support. The following statistics indicate time and effort expended by troops of the battalion in support of the orphanages:

Man Hours	79
Contributions	VN\$ 5,900
Food 2,600 lbs	30,680
Clothing 30 lbs	3,540
Lumber 80 bd ft	944
Paint 60 gal	4,130
	VN\$ 45,194

f. Personnel:

(1) Religious Activities:

(a) During the past quarter, Protestant and Roman Catholic services were held in the Battalion Chapel each Sunday. Jewish personnel have been informed by the Battalion Chaplain concerning the local Jewish Program and their names have been given to the I FFORCEV Jewish Chaplain. Schedules of regular and special denominational services have been posted on company bulletin boards and in the barracks in the battalion area. Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish literature was made available in the Battalion day room and at each of the remote sites.

(b) Chaplain site visitations were maintained on a regular basis with a goal of one visit to each site each month. Religious worship coverage at the sites was provided by the resident Chaplain in the area.

(c) Character guidance instruction was given on a regular basis to all companies of the battalion.

(d) The battalion Chaplain was appointed as the custodian of the Nha Trang Consolidated Chaplain's Fund effective July 1970.

(e) The Battalion Chaplain sent questionnaires to every member of the battalion in the Nha Trang area explaining Chapel activities and asking for any suggestions which would make the religious program more meaningful and effective.

(f) A Battalion Amnesty Drug Program in Nha Trang was inaugurated during the first week in July. Two panel discussions were presented to audiences of over 600 officers and enlisted men. The panel consisted of a military legal expert, a doctor, the Battalion Chaplain and one of the unit commanders. Additionally, comments were made by a former drug

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user in the battalion, who had sought help through the Amnesty Program. During the first month of the program, there were about 15 participants seeking help from the program. The Battalion Chaplain found that no facilities were available to confine patients, so he made two beds available in the Battalion Chapel. A patient of the Amnesty Program is given a complete physical, and then given an injection of Thorazine to help him sleep. Next, the individual visits a psychiatrist in Cam Ranh Bay. After he returns to Nha Trang, he is given Thorazine for seven days and visits with an Amnesty Representative or the Chaplain to discuss his problems. He can seek help anytime he feels the urge to return to drugs. While the program has gained momentum, much needs to be done to make it more effective.

(g) Every Friday the Chaplain visits four locations with two other Chaplains and holds religious services, leaving by helicopter at 0630 hours and returning at 1430 hours.

(h) The Chaplain accompanied by his amnesty representative visited the 167th Signal Company (RR) at An Khe and arranged for an Amnesty Program to be implemented in the 167th Signal Company in the middle of August.

(i) 500 questionnaires were sent out to the troops in the battalion dealing with local problems that effect the welfare of the men. Upon compiling the statistics these problems will be discussed to see if they can be corrected.

(2) S-1:

(a) Rest & Recuperation: During the period of 1 May 1970 - 31 July 1970, the battalion received 135 allocations and utilized 124 with 5 cancellations. In the month of July allocations for R&R decreased considerably due to the cutback of troop strength in Vietnam.

(b) Courts and Boards:

1 The Battalion Commander acts as Special Courts-Martial Convening authority for the 54th Signal Battalion (Corps) and all attached units of:

HHC, I FFORCEV
HQ Battery, I FFORCEV Art'y
MACV Advisory Team 25
MACV Advisory Team 26
MACV Advisory Team 28
MACV Advisory Team 30
MACV Advisory Team 31

MACV Advisory Team 32
MACV Advisory Team 36
MACV Advisory Team 37
MACV Advisory Team 38
MACV Advisory Team 41
MACV Advisory Team 42
MACV Advisory Team 45

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MACV Advisory Team 46
5th PI Det
11th PI Det
13th Military History

55th MI Det
64th Engineer Det
272nd MP Co
297th Trans Co (Car)

2 Additionally, the Battalion Commander acts as Field Grade Commander for Article 15 actions and appeals to Article 15 Actions for the above units less HQ Battery, I FFORCEV Arty and the 13 MACV Teams.

3 Non-Judicial Punishment: A total of 67 Article 15's were administered. Thirteen of those were field grade Article 15's. There were three appeals to Article 15 actions.

4 Summary Courts-Martial: Four Summary Courts-Martial were assembled during the quarter. There are two Summary Courts-Martial pending.

5 Special Courts-Martial: Four Special Courts-Martial were assembled during the quarter. There are 2 Special Courts-Martial pending.

6 One General Court-Martial was referred to the CG, I FFORCEV during to the quarter.

(c) Emergency Leaves: Sixteen emergency leaves were granted during the quarter.

(d) Promotions:	<u>E4</u>	<u>E5</u>	<u>E6</u>	<u>E7</u>
May	46	39	2	0
June	20	21	3	0
July	10	15	0	0

(e) Awards: The battalion processed 75 award recommendations consisting of 35 Bronze Star Medals, 38 Army Commendation Medals, 2 Air Medals.

(3) The following is a breakdown of the battalion's enlisted personnel utilization as of 18 July 1970:

	<u>HHC</u>	<u>Co A</u>	<u>Co B</u>	<u>167th</u>	<u>209th Sig Det</u>
AUTHORIZED	165	305	216	294	4
TOTAL ASSIGNED	196	318	242	217	6
AWOL	0	1	0	0	0
TDY & Leave	15	16	12	15	0
Stockade	0	1	2	0	0

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Motor Pool	24	44	11	17	0
Personnel On Sites	5	59	78	94	0
RWI	0	3	0	0	0
Guards	7	8	14	19	0
HF Park	0	18	0	0	0
Typhoon	0	34	0	0	0
Aviation	24	0	0	0	0
Comm Center	0	66	0	0	0
Photographers	21	0	0	0	6
Electronic Maintenance	40	2	0	8	0
*Miscellaneous	60	42	33	20	0
Total	196	294	150	173	6

* The following duties fall into this category: Cooks, orderly room, operations, supply, KP, telephone trouble teams, Technical Control, battalion details, Chapel Details, S-1, S-2/3 and MARS Station.

g. Artillery: None.

h. Other:

(1) Communications Statistics:

(a) Average daily number of messages (sent and received) at I FFOCEV Communications Centers:

	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
Landline	691	593	587
Radio Teletype	47	46	36

(b) Average handling time (in minutes) for all originating and terminating messages by precedence:

	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
Flash	36.38	22.77	20.02
Immediate	83.84	58.23	68.84
Priority	69.23	46.95	57.52
Routine	77.15	46.21	66.30

(c) Precedence of Total Transmissions in percentages:

Flash	28.51	14.20	7.87
Immediate	26.86	51.08	52.83
Priority	24.66	22.26	21.83
Routine	19.97	12.46	17.47

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(d) Switchboard Operations (Typhoon, Typhoon TOC):

	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
Total Typhoon Subscribers	214	211	214
Total Typhoon Trunks	68	68	68
Total Typhoon TOC Subscribers	30	30	30
Total Typhoon TOC Trunks	27	27	27
Average Daily Peg Count	1866	2511	2117

(e) MARS Operations:

	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	
Phone Patches Completed	779	665	833	Total 2277

(2) Photographic Operations:

	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Negatives Exposed	5246	4346	4185	13777
Number of Prints Made	16485	10215	13315	40015
Number of Color Slides Made	3140	2480	2820	8440
Feet of Motion Picture Film	2300	400	400	3100

(3) Aviation Activities:

(a) The period covered in this report was characterized by rendering air messenger support to Headquarters I FFORCEV and administrative and aerial resupply to the 54th Signal Battalion (Corps). During the period a total of seven aircraft were assigned: 1 UH-1D, 5 UH-1H's and 1 OH-58A.

(b) The following table reflects the aircraft status and flying hours for the past quarter.

AIRCRAFT STATUS AND FLYING HOURS

<u>TYPE A/C</u>	<u>SERIAL #</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>	<u>CM</u>	<u>PM</u>	<u>EDF</u>	<u>AVAILABILITY</u>	<u>DAYS ASSIGNED</u>
UH-1D	66-1033	47	9	864	168	53%	92
UH-1H	68-15528	149	108	24	168	86%	92
UH-1H	66-16764	86	324	72	648	52%	92
UH-1H	68-15574	167	216	72	0	87%	92
UH-1H	68-15662	103	240	324	444	53%	92
UH-1H	69-15100	137	120	0	430	73%	92
OH-58A	68-16901	65	120	48	900	50%	90

(c) The total tonnage transported for the quarter was 169 and there were 2198 passengers carried.

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2. (C) Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations.

a. Personnel:

(1) Observation: CPMI team from USARV discovered that "Unnamed Campaign" was not entered in pencil on personnel records and reports of changes were not submitted to OPO for Senior Enlisted and Officers Stating same. This deficiency alone on the records alone caused an error rate of 6.0. Areas must be graded 2.5 or below to be considered passing.

(2) Evaluation: Purpose of recording entry is to insure award of Enlisted Promotion points when individual is recommended for promotion.

(3) Recommendation: That requirement be deleted. Automatic award of points can be made on promotion packet at time of preparation for any unnamed campaign. As a minimum, reduce error rating to minor deficiency with a point rating of one (1).

b. Intelligence: None.

c. Operations:

(1) Channel Checks:

(a) Observation: Regulations require that channel checks be made only on an hourly basis, allowing an undetected loss of contact with the distant station.

(b) Evaluation: Tactical circuits and equipment frequently drift off alignment sufficiently in one hour to cause loss of contact. Experience has shown that channel checks every 30 minutes will reveal any such drifting and malalignment as they result in garbles, rather than a total loss of contact resulting from an uncorrected drift over a large interval.

(c) Recommendation: Tactical Communications Center operations doctrine be revised to require channel checks at half hour intervals if no traffic is passed.

(2) Multiple Tape Processing:

(a) Observation: Tactical equipment and doctrine for Corps communication centers do not provide equipment or procedure for multiple tape processing. This causes excessive delay of messages by using alternate Tape Recovery Method.

(b) Evaluation: Use of Tape Recovery Method of passing multiple

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transmission messages from circuit to circuit results in an accumulated handling time that is frequently unacceptable. Further, messages are sometimes inadvertently held at a circuit which is backlogged when it should be passed to other circuits and returned to the non-operating circuit after all other transmissions have been made. Experience has shown that making a separate tape for each transmission by the Multiple Call Processing method reduces handling time significantly.

(c) Recommendation: That tactical communications center equipment and doctrine be altered to allow for multiple call processing at all headquarters above the Division level.

(3) Ringing Distant Switchboards:

(a) Observation: When a subscriber wishes a trunk circuit the operator rings the distant switchboard. Normally this causes a drop on the board or a light, depending on the type of switchboard. If, however, the distant switchboard fails to plug in, the subscriber requests another ring and the operator states, "I'll ring again, Sir."

(b) Evaluation: The distant switchboard will not in reality be rung again unless the initial ring did not produce a drop. Therefore, the subscriber is not receiving another ring and will remain unanswered until the drop is answered on the distant end.

(c) Recommendation: That subscribers be made aware of this phenomenon or that another electrical circuit be devised to cause a second type of signal to the distant end.

(4) Radio Teletype Support to Combat Units:

(a) Observation: Combat support signal units provide radio teletype support to combat units which have their own operators and equipment. When these units required radio teletype capability for the Cambodian and subsequent operations, they could not provide these communications.

(b) Evaluation: There is a great tendency to misutilize communications personnel in positions such as clerks, drivers or other non-TO&E positions. The result is that the operators are not kept proficient in their job, and they become indispensable in their secondary job.

(c) Recommendation: Radio teletype equipment and operators should be pooled at higher headquarters such as at signal battalion level in a division or brigade or artillery group level. This would allow more flexibility in assigning radio teletype teams to accomplish mission essential requirements for these organizations.

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(5) Motion Picture Photography:

(a) Observation: Some of the motion picture footage returned to this unit indicated camera movement. The photographer did not or could not hold the camera perfectly still while shooting. This effect can be held to a minimum by using the wide angle lens, but this is not always practical or desirable.

(b) Evaluation: Except under combat circumstances the use of a tripod with the camera would eliminate nearly all unsteadiness of the camera during shooting. However, the motion picture tripod is extremely heavy and takes considerable time and effort to carry, set up, and level.

(c) Recommendation: That an additional individual be assigned to all DA Record motion picture assignments for the purpose of carrying and setting up the motion picture camera on the tripod. While insuring steady shots, this teamwork would also free the photographer to concentrate on the composition of his shots and to gather caption material.

d. Logistics:

(1) Electronic Tube 5654

(a) Observation: Unit experienced critical shortage of electronic tube 5654, utilized in AN/TRC-24 and AN/TCC-7.

(b) Evaluation: According to TM 11-5820-287-12, dated April 1967, FSN for electronic tube 5654 was 5960-262-1357. Unit made several demands for tube. Investigation disclosed that FSN for this tube was different on the box that tube was shipped in to unit. Reordered tube under new FSN 5960-045-8639 and soon received sufficient quantities to continue smooth operation. FSN had been changed for this tube and appropriate change had not been issued or received by this unit.

(c) Recommendation: That FSN changes be furnished through appropriate channels for items and running spare parts.

(2) Fuel and Oil Filters

(a) This unit experienced problems procuring fuel and oil filters for 60 KW generators through normal supply channels.

(b) Evaluation:

1 Without replacement filters the generators experienced difficulties which led to inefficient operations and deadline of equipment.

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2 It was found that with slight modifications fuel and oil filters from 2½ ton vehicles could be interchanged with 60 KW generators as a field expedient.

(c) Recommendation: That field expedient utilization of 2½ ton truck, M35A2, fuel filters and oil filters be made when necessary, in lieu of 60 KW generator fuel and oil filters.

f. Communications: Effect of Higher Baud Autodin Circuit.

(1) Observation: Increasing the baud rate improves the quality and reduces the backlog.

(2) Evaluation: It has been found, for reasons unknown, that increasing the baud rate has cut down the reject rate. Increasing the baud rate has also cut down the backlog because of the greater speed.

(3) Recommendation: That MODE I remain at 300 baud, and if there is a significant increase in traffic, that it be upgraded to higher baud.

g. Materiel:

(1) Cleaning the Line Packs on SB-86 Switchboard:

(a) Observation: When repairing and cleaning the SB-86 switchboards in a damaged AN/MTC-10 switchboard, the insides of several of the cord packs were corroded.

(b) Evaluation: TM 11-2134 does not specifically authorize the opening of cord packs on the SB-86 at organizational level. While it does state that the entire SB-86 should be cleaned inside and out, there is some question as to who can perform this maintenance.

(c) Recommendation: In areas of tropical climate, such as Southeast Asia, cord packs should be opened and inspected and aired out as a part of the quarterly maintenance at organizational level.

(2) Photographer's Caption Book:

(a) Observation: Photographer's Caption Book, DA Form 11-178, becomes easily waterlogged under jungle conditions. When handled frequently and stored in the breast pocket, the pages and cover become wet from the photographer's perspiration which makes it difficult to write captions with pen or pencil. It makes pages more prone to tearing. Due to method of binding, the continuation sheet overleaf can only be used for about half of the page.

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(b) Evaluation: The format of this caption book needs revision to resist dampness and to make use of continuation sheet more convenient.

(c) Recommendation: DA Form 11-178, Photographer's Caption Book, be given a waterproof cover and the binding changed to permit greater use of the continuation sheet.

(3) Loading Motion Picture Camera:

(a) Observation: Loading and unloading film in the Bell and Howell 70 HR 16mm Film motion picture camera is both clumsy and time consuming, taking up to five minutes to complete (including slating). Under combat situations, this prevents the photographer from maintaining continuity between rolls. It is also hazardous because the photographer must remain in one place while friendly forces are moving.

(b) Evaluation: A faster, less complicated means of loading camera is needed. Cartridges similar to those now used commercially in Super 8 cameras might be used.

(c) Recommendation: Investigate the possibility of a cartridge loading 16mm motion picture camera.

(4) Supervisory Capability for Switchboard Operators:

(a) Observation: Typhoon's incoming locals, when going to trunk circuits, do not have supervisory capability for the operators.

(b) Evaluation: Due to this lack of supervisory capability, the subscriber at times is left plugged in after completing call.

(c) Recommendation: That a system be devised on an AN/MTC-1 or AN/MTC-7 to allow supervisory capabilities on incoming locals to trunk circuits.

(5) Mounting of the AM-3349:

(a) Observation: The power amplifier, AM-3349 in the AN/GRC-122/142 radio teletype shelters, has occasionally fallen off the mount when traveling over rough terrain.

(b) Evaluation: The crossbar in the AN/GRC-106 mounting has no positive locking device.

(c) Recommendation: That a thumb-screw be placed in the upper rail of the crossbar and a hole be tapped in the amplifier housing to insure positive lockdown. As an interim solution, recommend that rope be used to secure the power amplifier when the radio set is in transit.

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15 August 1970

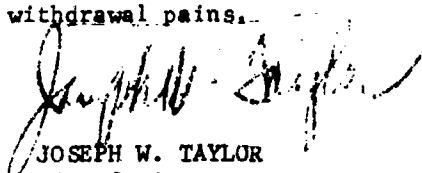
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 54th Signal Battalion (Corps),
Period Ending 31 July 1970, RCS-CSFOR-65 (R2)

h. Other: Amnesty Program.

(1) Observation: The amnesty program for drug abuse is not as effective as it should be. Positive steps must be taken to upgrade the effectiveness of the Amnesty Drug Program.

(2) Evaluation: This unit has endorsed the amnesty program wholeheartedly. Facilities necessary to treat personnel, especially addicts of hard drugs, are not adequate. In implementing the amnesty program, this unit conducted two one-hour classes. The first class was given to the officers and NCO's of the battalion and was primarily concerned with presenting basic information on drugs and imparting knowledge on how the program was to function. The second class, given to the enlisted personnel of the battalion, dealt more with dangers of drug abuse and more specifically with what the program entailed and how to go about requesting amnesty. In both classes, medical and legal experts presented information. A former addict made a short testimonial on what the amnesty program had done for him. Response from both classes was highly satisfactory and generated four applicants of the amnesty program within two days. Limited facilities available to this unit became all too apparent. Mental hygiene for this area is located in Cam Ranh Bay and is not easily accessible. Long waits for appointments and extremely short counseling sessions result from great demands placed upon the few personnel available at that location. It becomes very difficult to treat addicts for withdrawal syndromes unless the personnel are transferred to a medical facility. For these reasons the amnesty program becomes bogged down more deeply as applicants for the amnesty program increase. In the end, as the amnesty program becomes more successful in number of applicants, it becomes more ineffective in its treatment. Facilities and trained personnel have to be made available or the amnesty program is ineffective.

(3) Recommendation: For the amnesty program to be successful, certain procedures should be introduced. These include: streamlining of appointments for applicants for the amnesty program so that personnel administering the program are aware of the essentials of each case; hospital beds and medical supervision should be made available for patients undergoing the immediate effects of withdrawal pains.


JOSEPH W. TAYLOR
LTC, SigC
Commanding

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AVFA-SB-CO

15 August 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 54th Signal Battalion (Corps),
Period Ending 31 July, RCS-CSPOR-65 (R2)

8 Incl

1 - List of Detachments (Confidential)

2 - 54th Sig Bn (C) Communications Systems Map (Confidential)

~~3 - Key Personnel~~

4 - Organizational Chart

~~5 - 54th Sig Bn (C) and Attached Units MTOE~~

~~6 - Letter of Appreciation from MG Walker, CG, 4th Infantry Division and
Indorsement by LTC Gelline, CG, I FFORCEV~~

~~7 - Letter from COL Brain, Senior Advisor, 23rd ARVN Division~~

8 - Chronology (Confidential)

Incl 3, 5, 6 and 7 wd HQ DA

COPIES FURNISHED:

4 - CG, I FFORCEV, ATTN: AVFA-GC-OT, APO 96350

2 - CINCUSARPAC, ATTN: GPOB-DT, APO 96558

3 - DCG, USARV, ATTN: AVHGC-DST, APO 96375

2 - CG, I FFORCEV, ATTN: AVFA-SC, APO 96350

1 - CNDT, USASCS

1 - CO, USASESS, ATTN: DIR OD

AVFA-GC-HIST (15 Aug 70) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 54th Signal Battalion (Corps),
Period Ending 31 July 1970, RCS, CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam APO S.F. 96350

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96375

1. This headquarters has reviewed and evaluated subject Operational Report-Lessons Learned and concurs.

2. Reference paragraph 2a (Personnel), concur with the recommendation that requirement for entrance of "Unmanned Campaign" in pencil on qualification records be deleted in its entirety. Current procedures of this headquarters insure that all personnel being considered for promotion are awarded credits for all campaigns in which they have attained eligibility. Individuals are required to verify points awarded and initial the total points column.

3. There is some merit in the criticism of LTC Taylor regarding limited facilities immediately available in Nha Trang at the moment. Most of these problems associated with the 575th dispensary will be alleviated in the near future. There is a delay in getting Mental Hygiene Consults at this time and follow-up action is not optimum due to the lack of personnel. Basically drug abuse is a sociological problem with medical implications and problems but it is not to be considered a basically medical disease. Most victims of drug abuse can be adequately treated on an outpatient basis and actually do better than when hospitalized. It has been conclusively proven that recidivism rates are much higher when patients are hospitalized for all of their treatment than when they are treated on an outpatient system. An exception to the need for hospitalization may be the severely addicted user of "hard" drugs, chiefly heroin in our environment, and even this hospitalization should be terminated immediately after the acute withdrawal symptoms are alleviated and the patient then followed on an outpatient basis. It is impractical to establish a so-called drug treatment center for the hospitalization and treatment of all victims of drug abuse for several reasons:

- (a.) There are not enough hospital facilities available to hospitalize all such people in RVN.
- (b.) There are not enough personnel available to care for this large number of "patients" in a hospital environment.
- (c.) There is no need to hospitalize the vast majority of drug abusers.
- (d.) Secondary gain problems on the part of the patients would assume gigantic proportions.
- (e.) Recidivism rates would defeat the purpose of the amnesty program.

AVFA-GC-HIST (15 Aug 70) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 54th Signal Battalion (Corps),
Period Ending 31 July 1970, RGS, CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

Steps are being taken by medical personnel to facilitate and reenforce our existing and developing programs.

(a.) Consolidation of existing Army and Air Force psychiatry assets in the area at Cam Ranh Bay to streamline procedures is currently under way. Information on this should be available to the troops by 1 Sept 70.

(b.) A familiarization and education program for medical personnel in dispensary and non-hospital situations is to be instituted to facilitate treatment and follow-up on an outpatient basis with the man continuing to work in his unit.

(c.) Close coordination between medics and non-professional unit personnel is to be encouraged as an absolutely essential part of the program.

Other recommended steps to be considered as essential are:

(a.) Familiarization and "education" of unit officers and NCO's with the drug abuse problem--its recognition, the treatment and the support so valuable in the follow-up phase.

(b.) Utilization of other personnel such as chaplains in guidance roles.

(c.) Establishment of a buddy system or other system of personal identification to give the ex-drug user confidence and to stimulate a feeling of "belonging" and/or unit identity.

(d.) Establishment of a unit group therapy program wherein ex-drug abusers lend mutual support to each other.

(e.) Improvement of unit and area recreational facilities and support activities to assist all GIs to be constructively occupied in off-duty and slack times.

27 AUG 1970

AVFA-CC-HIST (15 Aug 70) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 54th Signal Battalion (Corps),
Period Ending 31 July 1970, RCS, CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

FOR THE COMMANDER:



ROBERT R. QUINN
CPT, AGC
A-13

CF:

2 - ACSFOR, DA
1 - CO, 54TH SIG BN (LESS ORILL)

AVHDO-DO (15 Aug 70) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 54th Signal Battalion (Corps),
Period Ending 31 July, RQS-CSFOR-65 (R2)

Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375 18 OCT 1970

~~THRU: Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications-~~
~~Command Pacific, APO 96557~~

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

1. This Headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1970 from Headquarters, 54th Signal Battalion (Corps) and comments of indorsing headquarters.

2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning "Unnamed Campaign," page 16, paragraph 2a(1), and 1st Indorsement, paragraph 2: nonconcur. The entry pertaining to "Unnamed Campaigns" on personnel records is required to insure that each individual receives credit for his service in Vietnam, and points when recommended for promotion. The campaign is in effect and should be so reflected on the personnel records to authorize the wearing of that particular battle star on the campaign ribbon. In addition, the removal of the requirement for this entry will possibly result in those individuals departing Vietnam prior to termination of the campaign being penalized at their next assignment in relation to promotions, and will create unnecessary administrative burdens in attempting to determine the individuals' eligibility. It should never be assumed that there will be an "automatic" award of anything that is not supported by a recorded entry. Assessment of a moderate deficiency for omission of this entry is considered appropriate due to the effect on an individual's selection for promotion. No action by USARPAC or DA is recommended.

b. Reference item concerning "Channel Checks," page 16, paragraph 2c(1). More frequent channel checks than called for in regulations is dependent upon local operating conditions, and is within the purview of the local commander to establish those procedures required for effective record communications. Unit has been so advised.

c. Reference item concerning "Multiple Tape Processing," page 16, paragraph 2c(2). The observation, evaluation and recommendation are excellent. Development of suitable doctrine and equipment should be evaluated by CMC to determine the economic impact of this proposal, and if favorable, appropriate action should be taken to realize the goal.

AVHDO-DO (15 Aug 70) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 54th Signal Battalion (Corps),
Period Ending 31 July, RCS-CSFOR-65 (R2)

d. Reference item concerning "Ringing Distant Switchboards," page 17, paragraph 2c(3). Once a call has been registered on a switchboard, operator response to the call depends upon proficiency, traffic load, and motivation. Response time can be improved through training, supervision and adequate switchboard manning. If a call does not register on the switchboard, the problem is normally the circuit path, and appropriate action must be taken to restore the path. All switchboards have multiple signaling capabilities (audio and visual) already, and to add another would not significantly improve response time. No action by USARPAC or DA is recommended.

e. Reference item concerning "Radio Teletype Support to Combat Units," page 17, paragraph 2c(4): nonconcur. The malassignment of technically skilled individuals is a command problem, and should be rectified by command emphasis and education rather than through altering valid communications doctrine. No action by USARPAC or DA is recommended.

f. Reference item concerning "Motion Picture Photography," page 18, paragraph 2c(5): nonconcur. The recommendation, as written, does not make clear whether it is asking for an additional man through MTOE/assignment action or merely suggesting that an individual already assigned to the unit be given the additional duty of carrying and setting up the tripod. If the recommendation implies MTOE action, it does not appear that there is sufficient justification to warrant such a change. If, however, the unit makes such a recommendation, the justification must also identify the trade-off space by paragraph and line number in the detailed MTOE since USARV cannot support strength increases at this time. Unit has been so advised.

g. Reference item concerning "Electronic Tube 5654," page 18, paragraph 2d(1). FSN changes are furnished through supply channels. The Direct Support Unit is responsible for notifying supported units of FSN changes.

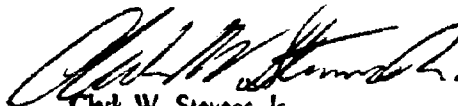
h. Reference item concerning "Fuel and Oil Filters," page 19, paragraph 2d(2): nonconcur with recommendation contained in paragraph 2d(2)(c) that field expedient utilization be made by modifying and substituting fuel and oil filters from 2½ ton vehicles for that required by the 60 KW generator. This Headquarters is sending an LAOV (MECOM) representative to the Signal Brigade to evaluate this problem area. A final determination will be made after the assistance visit by LAOV. Unit has been so advised.

i. Reference item concerning "Photographer's Caption Book," page 19, paragraph 2g(2). The Photographer's Caption Book is a DA Form. The 54th Signal Battalion should submit their recommendation through field commands

AVHDO-DO (15 Aug 70) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 54th Signal Battalion (Corps),
Period Ending 31 July, RCS-CRFOR-65 (R2)

with actual experience in use of DA Form 11-178, and forward to TAG, ATTN:
AGAM, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C. 20315 for consideration.
Unit has been so advised.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



Clark W. Stevens Jr.
Captain AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
I FFORCEV
54th Sig Bn

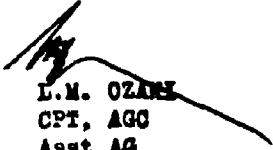
GPOP-DT (15 Aug 70) 3d Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 54th Signal Battalion (Corps) for
Period Ending 31 July 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 19 NOV 1970

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

1. This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.
2. Reference paragraph 2c(1), page 16 and paragraph 2b, 2d Ind: More frequent channel checks than specified by current regulations should be used only as an interim method to prevent loss of contact. Action should be taken to determine cause of drift with appropriate remedial action to prevent or decrease drifting.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


L.M. OZARK
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

Cy furn:
CG USARV

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COMMUNICATION DETACHMENT LOCATIONS (as of 31 July 1970)

<u>Detachment</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Grid Coordinates</u>
1	An Mhe, Hong Cong Mountain	BR 45404685
2	Qui Nhon	CR 05652210
3	Tan Canh	ZB 60222277
4	IZ Uplift	BR 93007152
5	Pleiku (Artillery Hill)	AR 22825324
6	Hon Tre Island	CP 13555005
7	Dalat	BP 22002041
8	North English	BR 87660644
9	Vung Chua Mountain	BR 05291992
10	Phan Thiet	AN 80500650
11	IZ English	BS 87500115
12	Ninh Hoa	RP 99308330
13	Song Mao	BN 27534456
14	Bao Loc	ZT 05407680
16	Ban Me Thuot	AQ 08130155
18	Pleiku (DSA II Mil Reg TCC)	AR 76325173
20	Buon Ba Yong	RQ 09250330
21	Camp Swampy	RQ 19151370
22	Phu Cat	BR 91424370
24	Grand Hotel VHF (Nha Trang)	CP 04355350
25	Pleiku (DSA II Corps HF)	AR 76555165

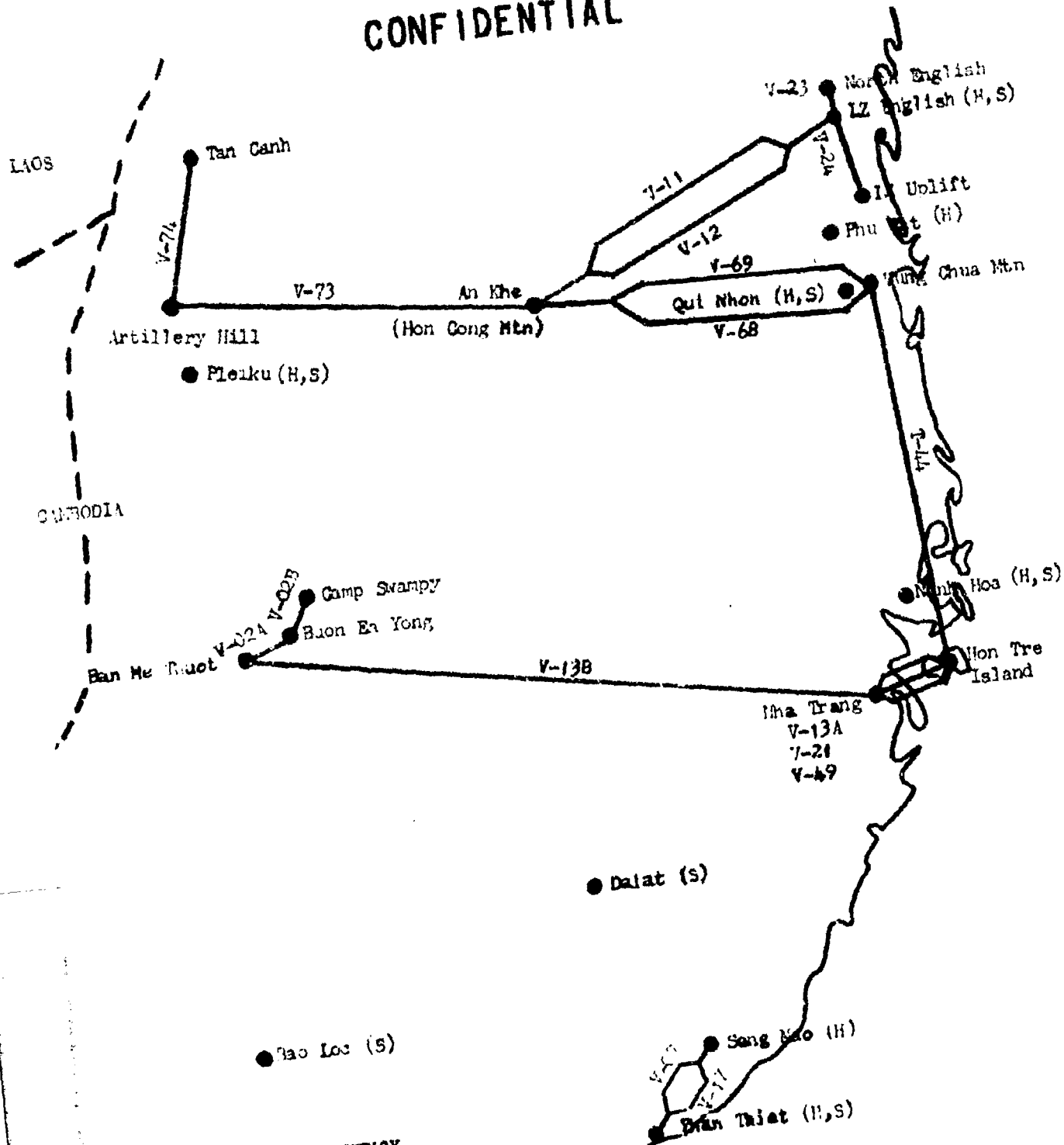
Other Significant Locations During the Quarter

<u>Location</u>	<u>Grid Coordinates</u>
Ban Don	ZV 03962688
Duc Co	YA 84252568
Flei Djereng	YA 86624561
IZ Meredith	YA 91472743
Duc Lap	YU 82617261
Camp Jerome	AQ 06380237
Tuy Phuc	CR 02232891

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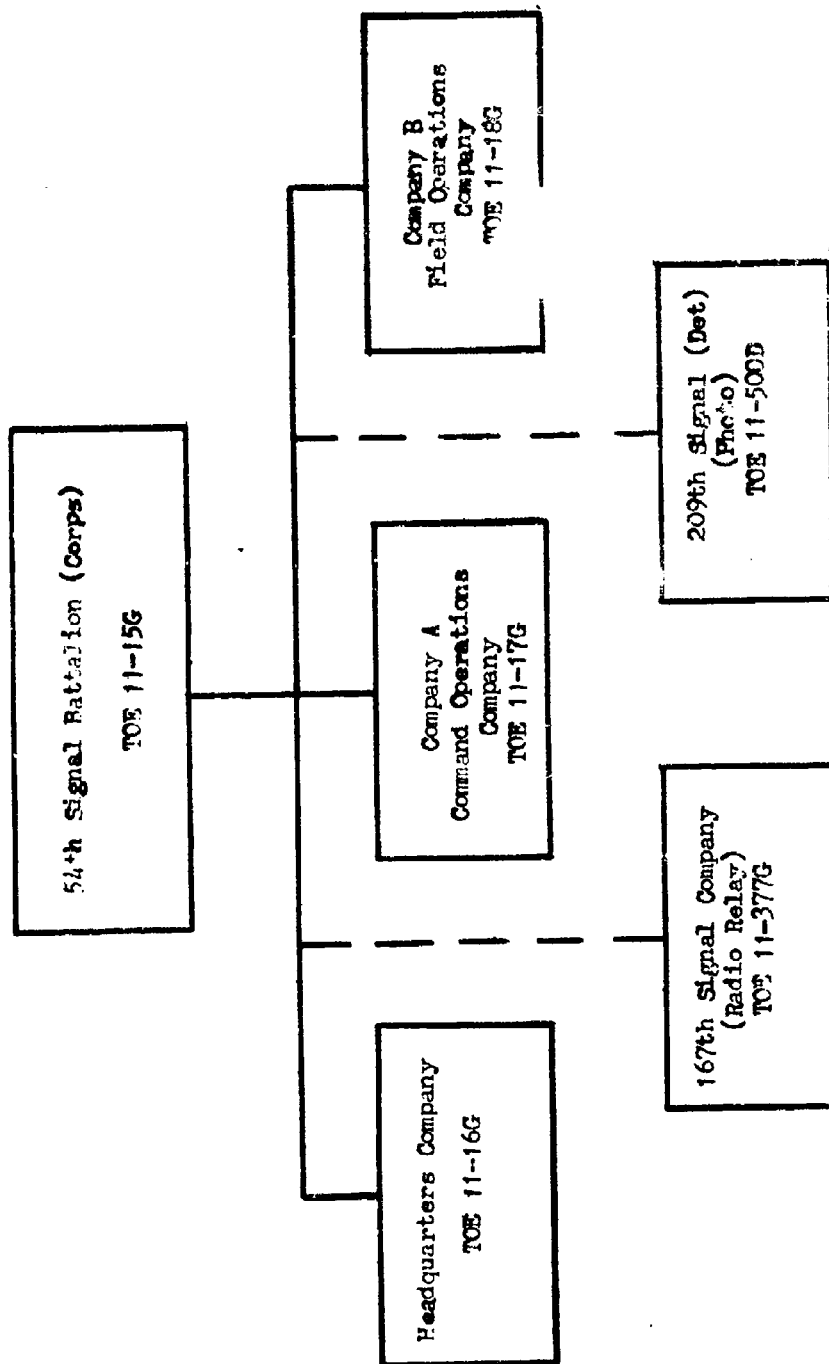


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~~Im 1 #2~~

54th Signal Battalion (Corps)

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



LEGEND
Attached. Assigned



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CHRONOLOGY

- 1 May 70 1) Bn Commander directed Bn S-3 to coordinate transportation for the Forward Mobile Staff (FMS) back from Kontum & Tan Canh with I FFORCEV G-4.
- 2) 167th Sig Co (RR) vehicle went off the road at Vung Chua Mtn injuring one man slightly and moderately damaging the vehicle.
- 2 May 70 1) Air Force Quality Assistance Team from Clark AFB Philippines arrived and checked AN/TRC-97B equipment at Non Tre Island, Vung Chua Mtn and at the Bn Motor Pool.
- 2) Officer in Charge, FMS closed down Alfa Net RTT and FM Secure Voice at Kontum as well as V-04 & V-05 VHF systems at that location.
- 3) CPT Joseph P. Missal assumed command of Company A from CPT Sam N. Marshall Jr.
- 3 May 70 1) Phan Thiet withstood a sapper attack last night, no casualties to Bn personnel and no damage.
- 2) Aviation section picked up a new OH-58A Kiowa rotor wing aircraft.
- 4 May 70 LTC Joseph W. Taylor assumed command of the 54th Sig Bn (C) from LTC Robert E. Visscher, previous commander from 5 May 1969 to 4 May 1970.
- 5 May 70 FMS departed Pleiku to convoy to Qui Nhon.
- 6 May 70 1) Pleiku went on Red alert as three 122mm rockets hit DSA II Corps area. No 54th Sig Bn (C) personnel injured.
- 2) Plans Officer, I FFORCEV Signal Section, informed Bn S-3 that battalion may be tasked to support the 4th Division during the Cambodian operations. B Company prepared VHF equipment for possible deployment.
- 3) Bn Commander toured operating facilities in Nha Trang including

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Comm Center, Typhoon Switchboard, Technical Control, Courier Section,
Photo Section, Hotel Carrier & HF Park.

- 7 May 70 I FFORCEV Signal Officer directed one officer and one combat photographer to go into Cambodia and cover the 4th Division's Operations for DA Record Photography.
- 8 May 70 1) Camp McDermott received four 107mm rockets at 0600. Moderate equipment damage incurred by the Bn Motor Pool where one of the rockets landed. Rockets hit again at 0915. No damage resulted.
- 2) Signal Section directed Bn to move an AN/GRC-122 from Det 22 near Qui Nhon to Pleiku to support DSA II Corps.
- 3) One AN/GRC-122, one AN/GRC-142 and MRC-73 were sent to Pleiku to prepare to support 4th Division at Plei Djereng. One AN/GRC-122 was sent to Duc Co to support MACV Team #21 and 22nd ARVN Div. Another AN/GRC-122 deployed to Det 25, Pleiku, and Det 25's RATT rig assisted with the commitment resulting in five (5) Radio Teletype rigs being utilized.
- 9 May 70 Equipment used by FMS is on standby status ready to support MACV and 4th Infantry Division operations.
- 11 May 70 Two RTT rigs (one AN/GRC-122 and one AN/GRC-142) deployed from Pleiku to Plei Djereng in support of the 4th Division. Additionally, an AN/VRC-47 and one back-up radio with secure Nestor equipment located in the 4th Division TOC, Pleiku.
- 12 May 70 Det 27, Plei Djereng, logged in Alpha and Charlie Nets.
- 14 May 70 I FFORCEV Signal Section informed S-3 that the two AN/GRC-122 rigs at Plei Djereng will be committed to Ban Me Thuot and are to return to Pleiku.
- 15 May 70 The AN/GRC-142 that had supported the 4th Division at Plei Djereng recommit-
mitted to LZ Meredith in support of the 2/1st Armored Cavalry which was

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maintaining road security for the 4th Division.

- 16 May 70 1) Bn Commander and CSM visited An Khe for 167th Sig Co's Organization Day.
2) B Company was directed to deploy two AN/MRC-112's to Ban Me Thuot in support of MACV Advisors to the 23rd ARVN Division's Cambodian operations.
- 18 May 70 1) S-3 was informed by Signal Section that 22nd Rangers (US), operating in Cambodia, were permitted to enter Charlie Net at Duc Co.
2) LZ English went on Red Alert at 1120.
3) Ban Me Thuot went on Red Alert at 1800.
- 19 May 70 LTC Jack A. Lucido, new Deputy Signal Officer, visited Southern sites on initial orientation tour.
- 22 May 70 1) Signal Support Order directed Bn to deactivate W-25 system from LZ North English to Tam Quan at 221200H May 70.
2) Det 28, Ban Me Thuot, came up in the Charlie (Voice) Net.
- 24 May 70 1) I FFORCEV conducted a meeting with Bn S-3 to discuss Province Senior Advisor and District Senior Advisor radio systems & repair priority.
2) V-71 between Engineer Hill & Arty Hill at Pleiku was deactivated.
- 28 - 29 May 70 LTC Mays, new I FFORCEV Signal Officer, visited Bn and received a briefing from Bn S-3. He toured all Nha Trang area facilities.
- 30 May 70 1) LZ Meredith AN/GRC-142 commitment ended and the rig returned to Pleiku.
2) Dalat and Tan Canh went on Red Alert.
- 3 Jun 70 Signal Section, I FFORCEV alerted the Bn of an impending Signal Support Order to provide 2/1st Armored Cavalry communications.
- 4 Jun 70 1) Camp McDermott received incoming rockets at 1800. No damage or casualties in Bn area.
2) Camp McDermott received incoming rounds again at 2350. Again no damage or casualties in Bn area.

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- 6 Jun 70 Bn Commander held weekly staff meeting and stressed LTG Collins', CG, I FFORCEV, accident prevention and military courtesy policies.
- 7 Jun 70 CPT Francis M. Creighton assumed command of HHC from CPT Wunderly.
- 8 Jun 70 1) AN/VSC-2 was deployed to 2/1st Armored Cavalry at Camp Jerome, Ban Me Thuot, on a combat essential (CE) air mission.
- 2) 2/1st Armored Cavalry requested WD-1 wire to be installed from Det 16 VHF to Traveler Forward Swoad at the Squadron CP.
- 3) Signal Section, I FFORCEV, directed 4 miles of WD-1 wire be forwarded to 2/1st Armored Cavalry in Ban Me Thuot. B Co assisted with installation.
- 9 Jun 70 1) Storm hit Det 21 Camp Swampy causing water damage to back-up equipment.
- 2) CPT Edmond D. Boone assumed command of Company B from CPT Robert A. Wysocki who becomes assistant S-3.
- 10 Jun 70 167th Sig Co (RR) tested V-72 and V-74 systems (Arty Hill to Tan Canh) under guidance from Technical Control.
- 11 Jun 70 1) CO, 167th Sig Co (RR) notified Bn of a fire at the Engineer Hill motor pool. Investigating Officer appointed and directed to fly by chopper to investigate. Four (4) 2½ ton trucks, tools and repair equipment destroyed.
- 2) Co B was directed to send one AN/MRC-73 multichannel VHF radio to Ban Me Thuot to support the 2/1st Armored Cavalry. G-4 transportation arranged a CE flight.
- 12 Jun 70 Co A was directed to move an AN/GRC-122 radio to Camp Jerome (near Ban Me Thuot) to replace VSC-2. RTT communications was operational at 1530 in the Alpha Net.
- 13 Jun 70 54th Sig Bn (C) hosted 5th Railway Security Bn (ARVN) in a volleyball match.

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- 14 Jun 70 1) LTC Keenan, 1st Signal Brigade, toured Comm Center; had his team remove the remaining Mode V today.
- 2) Ban Me Thuot went on Red Alert for 40 minutes at 1710 due to incoming 82 MM mortars. No casualties or damages reported.
- 15 Jun 70 1) Technical Assistance Team departed for a four day project checking LZ English, North English, LZ Uplift and Vung Chua Mtn.
- 2) New Chaplain (CPT) McNeelly, Roman Catholic, arrived in the Bn from 173rd ARN Bde.
- 16 Jun 70 1) 55th MI arrived in Bn to perform a pre-AGI courtesy inspection. Results indicated that there were no discrepancies.
- 2) USAFV CPMT Team arrived for 3 day inspection of personnel management.
- 20 Jun 70 1) The Bn received a letter from MG Walker, CG, 4th Infantry Division and indorsed by LTC Collins complimenting the Bn's outstanding support of Cambodian operations.
- 2) One AN/GRC-122 and one AN/MRC-112 at Duc Lap were moved to Ban Don at 0905. This is the new MACV forward area CP for 23rd ARVN Division Cambodian operations.
- 21 Jun 70 1) Signal Section, I FFORCEV directed the Bn to install an additional Typhoon line for the Khanh Hoa Province Senior Advisor.
- 2) Signal Section directed Bn to prepare RTT rig for a CE mission to Pleiku in support of DSA II Corps.
- 24 Jun 70 128th Sig Co TI Team conducted 100% inspection of Photo Section. Results: Satisfactory rating.
- 25 Jun 70 Tan Canh received incoming 122 MM rocket at 1500. No casualties or damage.
- 26 Jun 70 AN/GRC-122 at Duc Co supporting MACV team 21 needed power supply which will be forwarded by air.

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- 21 Jun 70 1) Comm Center Mode I was 100% operational. Liaison Officer at Nha Trang Electronic Engineering (LSE).
- 2) The AN/GRC-122 commitment at Det 10, Ban Me Thuot, was closed down and remained in reserve at DSA II Corps, Pleiku. Also the AN/GRC-122 and AN/MRC-112 supporting MACV advisors to the 23rd AVN Division at Ban Don prepared to return to Ban Me Thuot today as that commitment has ended.
- 29 Jun 70 Co B closed V-05 system from Det 10, Ban Me Thuot, to Camp Jerome and returned equipment to Nha Trang.
- 1 Jul 70 AN/GRC-122 from Dets 28 and 29 arrived back in Nha Trang.
- 2 Jul 70 Class was given to all Officers, NCO's and EM by the following military experts: doctor, lawyer and chaplain to explain the Drug Amnesty Program.
- 6 Jul 70 Tan Canh was hit with two mortar rounds. No damage to Bn personnel or equipment.
- 8 Jul 70 Signal Section representative departed to Song Mao and Phan Thiet to conduct IG at those detachments.
- 9 Jul 70 Colonel Gorler, I FFORCEV IG, arrived, briefed Bn Officers and introduced the IG team. Inspection continued thru the next day.
- 10 Jul 70 1) Tan Canh received incoming mortars. No damage or casualties resulted.
2) I FFORCEV IG conducted exit briefing. Results: Satisfactory rating.
- 11 Jul 70 Mode 1 Autodin Subscriber Terminal Equipment in Comm Center was reterminated to the Phu Lam Automatic Switching Center.
- 12 Jul 70 1LT Lindley, CO, 209th Sig Det (Photo), briefed LTG Collins on photographic capabilities of the 54th Sig Bn (C) Pictorial Center. After the briefing LTG Collins directed Bn to shoot combat footage to include armor, artillery and infantry activities and any caches discovered.
- 14 Jul 70 Liaison Officer to Capitol ROK Division requested that an AN/GRC-122

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radio be deployed to Phu Cat for an operation starting 15 July, Signal Section approved request and 14th Aerial Port Sqdn booked rig on CE flight.

15 Jul 70 RTT rig arrived at Qui Nhon and deployed to Phu Cat and became operational.

18 Jul 70 1) Information office coordinated with 209th Sig Det (Photo) motion picture coverage of 2nd Squadron, 1st Armored Cavalry Regiment operations at Task Force South.

2) CPT Robert A. Wysocki assumed position as Bn S-3.

19 Jul 70 2/1st Armored Cavalry Signal Officer requested a system between Phan Thiet and Camp Blackhawk, Song Mao, in the event that Thien Giau closes down.

20 Jul 70 1) S-3 coordinated installation of SB-675 at Hon Cong Mountain, An Khe, with 586th Sig Bn.

2) Task Force South Area Commo Officer reported 1st Bn, 50th Infantry Division (Mechanized) departed Thien Giau today and V-06A, V-06B, V-07 and V-08 systems to that location will no longer be needed.

22 Jul 70 1) Bn Commander directed S-3 to coordinate closeout of Det 23 tomorrow.

A system will be installed between HQ, Task Force South, Phan Thiet and Camp Blackhawk, Song Mao, the 2/1st Armored Cavalry Headquarters.

2) Bn CO directed S-3 to draft DF to unit commanders concerning upgrading safety procedures at the sites.

24 Jul 70 1) Bn conducted B-Band VHF test between LZ English and LZ Uplift under direction of Tech Control. The system worked well and will be given consideration for use in the near future.

2) CPT David I. Drummond assumed command of 167th Sig Co (RR) from former commander CPT Lee F. Woodward.

25 Jul 70 One MTC-10 switchboard was airlifted by Chinook helicopter to 2/1st Armored Cavalry, Song Mao.

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- 26 Jul 70 1) Bn Commander informed S-3 that MACV CCG Teletype circuit will be re-terminated at TOC C/C NIT 5 August.
- 2) S-3 provided itinerary for COL Mattern, 21st Signal Group Commander to visit Province Senior Advisors from 28-31 July. I FFORCEV Signal Officer and Bn Commander will escort.
- 29 Jul 70 Signal Section I FFORCEV directed Bn to deploy AN/GRC-122 on C3 flight to Tuy Phuoc tomorrow. Equipment and personnel supported 3/506 Infantry Bn 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile).
- 30 Jul 70 Det 26, Tuy Phuoc, went on air in Alpha and Charlie Nets.
- 31 Jul 70 The Bn received letter from COL Braim, Senior Advisor to 23rd ARVN, complimenting the Bn's outstanding support of Operation Binh Tay II and III in Cambodia during months of May and June 1970.

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